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I chose Edward Snowden's release of information about the NSA as my topic, from a viewpoint of how the NSA has been violating ethical dilemmas. While the professor may have intended for the assignment to focus on how Snowden was acting unethically, I find that the information released provides a more complex ethical issue than the person who did the releasing. The most obvious issue is the lack of confidentiality the NSA displayed. From private emails and phone calls between ordinary citizens, sharing data of US citizens to foreign governments, to tracking the movements of foreign politicians, confidentiality is the most common query in my graph. It affected every single one of my listed systems because it gave concrete reasons for a lack of trust of the US government experienced by citizens and foreign governments.

Competence is not widely selected because I don't think anything released shows a lack of ability, rather haunting proof that the NSA is able to access disturbing amounts of information, including their loophole to search information without a warrant. There were a few cases of them taking intellectual property from foreign governments and tech businesses, and maintenance wise the only issue was what they claimed as an error during their audits. In terms of computer misuse, I'd say that everything they did was computer misuse. Even in terms of foreign relations and the war on terror, they found and manipulated information about middle eastern countries seen as threats to the United States and treated that information in a way that reinforces toxic nationalism and xenophobia. Some may argue that the NSA was doing its job in finding information about countries home to terrorist organizations, but the information they found was inevitably used to justify bombing innocent people. An important piece of ethics is effect, and by providing information that has no basis in being an actual threat, they are allowing for unjustified attacks of foreign governments and citizens.